



II Forum on China-Brazil Struggle Against Poverty and for Rural Revitalization & Intersectoral Dialogues

By Mauro Ramos, journalist from Brasil de Fato. Source: Brasil de Fato.

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For the first time, a delegation of rural popular organisations participated with a delegation that travelled to China within the framework of the Sino-Brazilian High-Level Commission for Concertation and Cooperation (Cosban). Below, we share a summary of activities and perspectives during those activities.

“We are talking now [to see] how to form business partnerships in which there is technology transfer [to Brazil]”, said the Minister of Agrarian Development, Paulo Teixeira, this week, on a visit to China. He is one of the six ministers who are part of the delegation led by the vice-president and minister of Industry, Geraldo Alckmin, who closed, this Friday (7), the agendas related to the VII Meeting of the Sino-Brazilian High-Level Commission for Concertation and Cooperation (Cosban).

“We even spoke here with President Dilma Rousseff, who is presiding over the BRICS development bank (New Development Bank, NDB) to help Brazilian companies in these partnerships, with financing”, added Teixeira.



The dialogue with the NDB includes possible financing for programs to strengthen cooperatives, purchase of machinery, and production of organic fertilizers for family farming in Brazil.

Together with the Minister of Social Development, Wellington Dias, Teixeira participated in one of the first activities carried out within the framework of Cosban, a forum with Chinese authorities on the Fight against Poverty and the so-called Rural Revitalization.

“President Lula wants to move forward with small farmers,” said Dias. In this sense, the partnership with China greatly increases productivity in the approximately 4 million small farmer properties in Brazil, to “guarantee not only harvesters, planters, land preparation machines, but also the processing of products”.

The activity was organized by the China Economic Cooperation Center of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CECC), the University of Brasília (UnB), and the International Association for Popular Cooperation (Baobab).

Movements at Cosban

This was the first time that the largest popular rural organizations in Brazil attended an agenda within Cosban’s landmarks. The Landless Rural Workers Movement (MST), National Confederation of Rural Workers, Farmers and Family Farmers (Contag), National Confederation of Workers in Family Farming in Brazil (Contraf), and Small Farmers Movement (MPA).

“We want Brazil to advance in the machinery industry, not importing, but producing. Importing, if applicable, but that can bring technological advancement to Brazilian industry, like what China has achieved”, stated Elias Araújo, leader of the MST.

Minister Wellington Dias also valued cooperation in the areas of technical assistance and between universities, such as those of the China Agricultural University with the University of Brasilia.

The partnership between the University of Agriculture of China and the Northeast Consortium is what allowed the first shipment of agricultural machinery for family farming in the Northeast, a region where this sector has a mechanization rate of less than 3%.



Harvesting rice in the MST's Cristina Alves Settlement with Chinese machines from the partnership between the Northeast Consortium and China Agriculture University. Source: Eduardo Moura/MST-MA

Due to this factor, Aristides Santos, president of Contag, highlighted the need to install factories in the region. He also highlighted that the machines must be “adapted to our reality, and with our involvement in universities, of our agricultural technicians”.

“[It is necessary] for us to be able to better study what is most suitable for us because it is not enough to mechanize, but we have to mechanize from the perspective of family farming, the conditions of our soil, our climate, in order to be something sustainable”, argues Aristides.

Advances in partnerships and exchanges

The family farming delegation traveled to Shandong province to visit a Lovol factory, a Chinese family farming machinery company that has a factory in Brazil. And they also met a model cooperative for the country's rural revitalization policy.

“This company employs 10 thousand workers, produces tractors and agricultural implements. And they want to form a partnership with Brazil. We also bring Brazilian industrialists who want to form partnerships, joint



ventures, to take this technology they have, very new and significant technologies in this area of agricultural machinery”, said Teixeira.

The experience visited was that of the Weifang Yuquanwa Professional Cultivation Cooperative Union, made up of more than 600 small farmers focused on organic crops, biogas, and organic fertilizer production.

Another case of the “rural revitalization” process shared during the forum was that of Jilin province, where policies to improve infrastructure and support peasants, as in the previous case, allowed an increase in the income of rural families in recent years.

Yu Leqian, from the Jilin Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, said that, since 2012, the income of the province’s poorest rural population has increased fivefold, reaching an equivalent value of US\$ 2,180 in 2023.

“All villages now have access to paved roads, 4G and 5G communication services, and electricity. Some of the villagers now live a good life as the urban population,” said Leqian.

For the professor at the Faculty of Humanities and Development Studies, China Agricultural University, Ye Jingzhong, the example of China’s anti-poverty policies has to do with financial resources but mainly with the mobilization of broad sectors of Chinese society to this end.

“The following is very important: to draw the attention of the whole society, including government agencies, including social organizations, to work on rural poverty to make people pay attention to combating poverty”, assesses the professor.

“And we have many mechanisms, for example, to get government officials to come to villages to be responsible for poverty reduction, for business sectors to also be connected to these villages, to get involved in poverty reduction,” explains.

A visiting researcher at CAU, Caroline Gomide, from UnB, assessed the meeting between the Brazilian delegation and Chinese experts and officials as a historic milestone.

“We have no doubt that this is a historic milestone in the successful 50-year relationship between our countries, as it announces family farming as a new front of cooperation for the coming years. It is also a milestone for innovative



agendas for the Global South, which emerges as a new global arrangement guided by peace and common prosperity”, said Gomide.

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